



# **HOUSTON FIRE DEPARTMENT**

## **MEDIA ALERT**

### **PUBLIC INFORMATION OFFICE**

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

**DATE: September 12, 2006**

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## **HFD CAPTAIN RECOGNIZED FOR OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS**

**WHAT:** HFD Rescue Captain John Garcia will be recognized for his outstanding contributions to and for the community by a City Council City of Houston Bravo Award and 2006 Mayor's Hispanic Heritage Award.

**WHEN/ WHERE:** City Council – Today, Sept. 12, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. (Presentation time) at City Hall

Hispanic Heritage Awards –Thursday, Sept. 14, 2006 starting at 5pm-7pm at the Wortham Center

**DETAILS:** Captain Garcia has been a member of the HFD since 1982 and during this time has initiated many programs that have helped numerous Houstonians.

In 1994, Captain Garcia started and has continued the Houston Spanish CPR Task Force that has since trained thousands of in CPR at yearly mass training events. Garcia is presently serving as a member of many different non-profit organizations designed to better the lives of the Hispanic community. In 2005, he founded the Traveling Disciples, a humanitarian and spiritual non-profit organization that provides humanitarian relief to local low-income apartment residents. He is currently a member of the American Heart Association Community Outreach Committee, American Heart Association Hispanic Outreach Task Force, the Texas Partners of the Americas and many others.

Captain Garcia has helped develop and organize the Christmas Dream Foundation Giveaway that donates furniture to needy families. He also taught the first Structural Firefighting and Vehicle Extrication class in Spanish for Latin American firefighters at the Val Jahnke Training Facility.